

Building Migrant Partnerships

Migrant Resource Councils



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Presentation Overview



- Who are Michigan's farmworkers and children, and what are their challenges?
- What is the role of the Office of Migrant Affairs and the IMSC?
- What is the purpose of the Migrant Resource Councils, and how do I get involved?
- Capital Area Migrant Resource Council

Michigan Farmworkers: An Overview



- Agriculture's Impact on Michigan's Economy¹
 - Total Economic Impact of Growing, Processing /Manufacturing & Selling Food: \$91.4 Billion
 - *Agriculture and Food #2 Industry in Michigan*
 - Impact of Farming and Food Processing/Manufacturing: \$38 Billion
- Agriculture & Michigan's Workforce
 - Total jobs in Farming & Food Processing: **115,000**
 - **2.7%** of Michigan's Workforce Grows and/or Processes Food

¹ National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA) 2012 Agricultural Statistics for Michigan; Michigan State University Product Center, www.productcenter.msu.edu

Michigan's Farmworkers: An Overview



How many migrant & seasonal farmworkers in MI?

- 5th largest in nation for number of farmworkers registered for employment with the state ¹
- 94,167 MSFWs and dependents; 61,564 migrants ²
- 27,965 migrant children ages 0-19
- 10,599 migrant children ages 5-12
- 7,718 migrant children under 5

¹ United States Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration Designation of Significant Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker (MSFW) States, 2013.

² Michigan Update Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Enumeration Profiles Study, 2013.
www.michigan.gov/documents/dhs/FarmworkerReport_430130_7.pdf

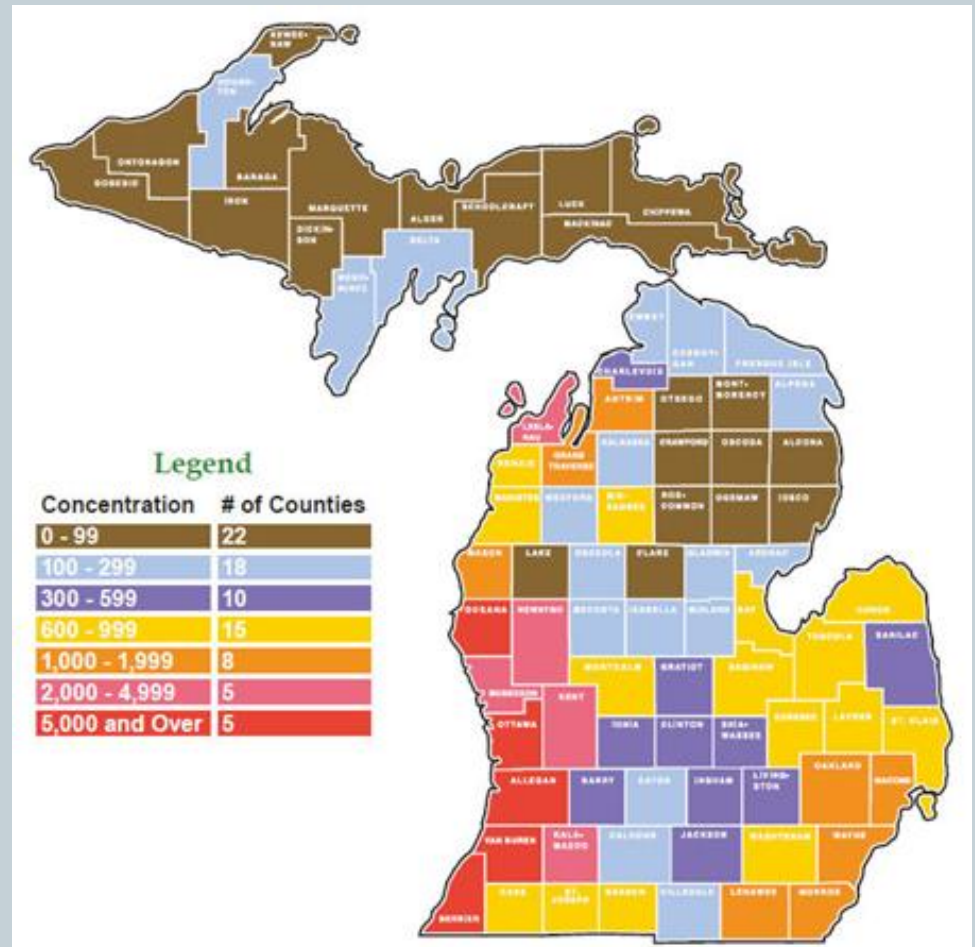
Michigan's Farmworkers: An Overview

Top 5 Counties: (Migrant workers & dependents)

1. Ottawa (9,084)
2. Van Buren (8,527)
3. Oceana (4,738)
4. Berrien (4,496)
5. Allegan (3,458)

NOTE: Map indicates migrant & seasonal workers & dependents.

http://michigan.gov/documents/dhs/FINALFactSheet_431867_7.pdf?20130823162225



Challenges for Farmworkers



- Low wages:
 - Average total family income < \$20,000/year, or \$385/week¹
 - Exempted from overtime pay by law
 - Payment of sub-minimum wages not uncommon
- Hazardous work conditions
 - Heat stress
 - Pesticide & chemical exposure
 - Failure of farms to follow health & safety rules



¹ National Center for Farmworker Health, Farmworker Health Fact Sheet, Sept. 2012, <http://www.ncfh.org/docs/fs-Migrant%20Demographics.pdf>

Challenges for Farmworkers



- Poor housing conditions:
 - 75% not state licensed
 - Overcrowding, water & sewer problems, trash removal
 - Exposure to pesticides
- Physical & social isolation
- Lack of transportation
- Language barrier
 - Spanish
 - Indigenous languages



Challenges for Farmworker Children

- Health challenges
 - Pesticides & other environmental
 - Lack of access to care
- Educational disruption
 - Test behind peers
 - Lower high school graduation rates



Challenges for Farmworker Children

- Lack of childcare options
 - State childcare provider trainings don't meet need
 - Lack of outreach to & support for providers
- Children in the fields
 - Can be as young as 13 to work legally
 - Illegal employment of young children in MI



Office of Migrant Affairs/DHS



- Lead state agency responsible for the assessment, development and coordination of services for Michigan's migrant and seasonal farmworkers
- Mission: To deliver public benefits, provide assistance, and coordinate statewide services that meet the economic and cultural needs of marginalized migrant and seasonal farmworkers
- 52 DHS staff/workers housed in 13 counties and providing services to MSFWs in 28 counties

Office of Migrant Affairs/DHS



- OMA enhances the delivery of DHS services to MSFWs and their families by:
 - Analyzing, recommending and advocating for improvements in the departments program policies and procedures
 - Coordinating the allocation, recruitment, testing, hiring, and training of DHS bilingual (Eng/Spa) migrant program staff
 - Advocating for MSFWs

Office of Migrant Affairs/DHS



- Office of Migrant Affairs coordinates services to farmworkers statewide through the following:
 - Michigan Interagency Migrant Services Committee
 - Regional Migrant Resource Councils



Interagency Migrant Services Committee



- Formed in 1972—Now in 5th decade
- Mission: Improve quality of life of farmworkers through coordination of services
- Membership is diverse & comprehensive
 - All state & federal agencies providing services to farmworkers, including Dept. of Education
 - Nonprofits serving farmworkers
 - Farmworker advocates
 - Grower interests

IMSC History



- 1968, 1969—Michigan Civil Rights Commission Reports on farmworker conditions with recommendations
- 1970—Governor's Task Force on Migrant Labor issues recommendations
- Governor Milliken has head of each state agency designate an individual responsible for migrant issues

IMSC History



- 1972—Designated individuals from state departments form the Interagency Committee on Migrant Affairs
- 1972—Governor proposes a federal-level interagency committee
- 1976—Governor designates MI DHS as lead state agency for coordinating services to farmworkers
- 1978—Governor renames & institutionalizes Interagency Committee by Executive Order

IMSC Purpose



- Governor's charge to IMSC in 1978--Provide forum for the following:
 - Communication among state agencies
 - Resolution of problems
 - Development of a state strategy
 - Policy recommendations to Governor's Office



Migrant Resource Councils



- Office of Migrant Affairs oversees the Migrant Resource Councils
- Network of 9 regional Councils throughout the state
- Serving MSFWs at the local level, spanning 51 counties
- Monthly meetings during the peak season



Migrant Resource Councils



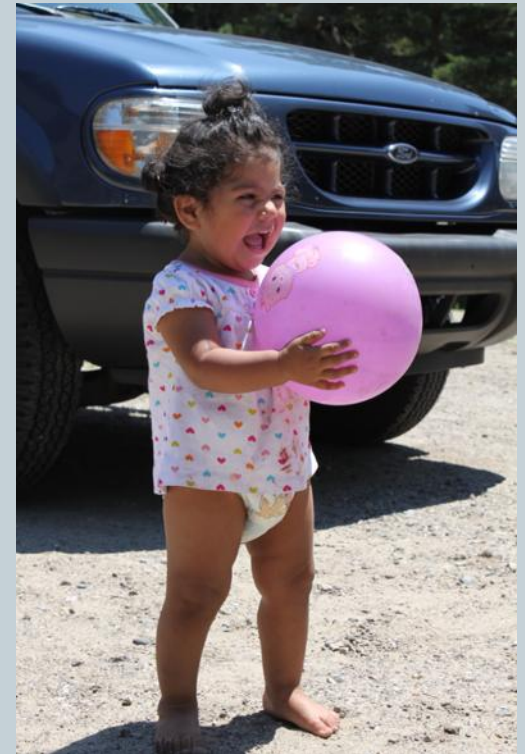
- Allegan/Ottawa/Barry MRC
- Capital Area MRC
- Great Lakes MRC
- Mid-Michigan MRC
- Northwest MI MRC
- Southeastern MI MRC
- Southwestern MI MRC
- Sparta Area MRC
- West MI MRC



Migrant Resource Councils: Purpose



- Exchange information on services to farmworkers
- Reduce duplication of services
- Identify unmet needs of farmworkers and their families
- Establish referral networks
- Coordinate service delivery



Migrant Resource Councils: Membership



- Each council has a Chair or Co-chairs, a Secretary, and Treasurer (if needed)
- Membership is free and open to the public
- Members consist of:
 - Local representatives from state & federal agencies
 - Education providers
 - Nonprofit service providers
 - Growers & food processors
 - Farmworkers
 - Concerned individuals

Migrant Resource Councils: Agency Guide



MRC Agency Resource Guide

- List of all local farmworker service providers
- Updated yearly at the start of the season
- Given to MRC members to distribute to clients

Migrant Resource Councils: Activities

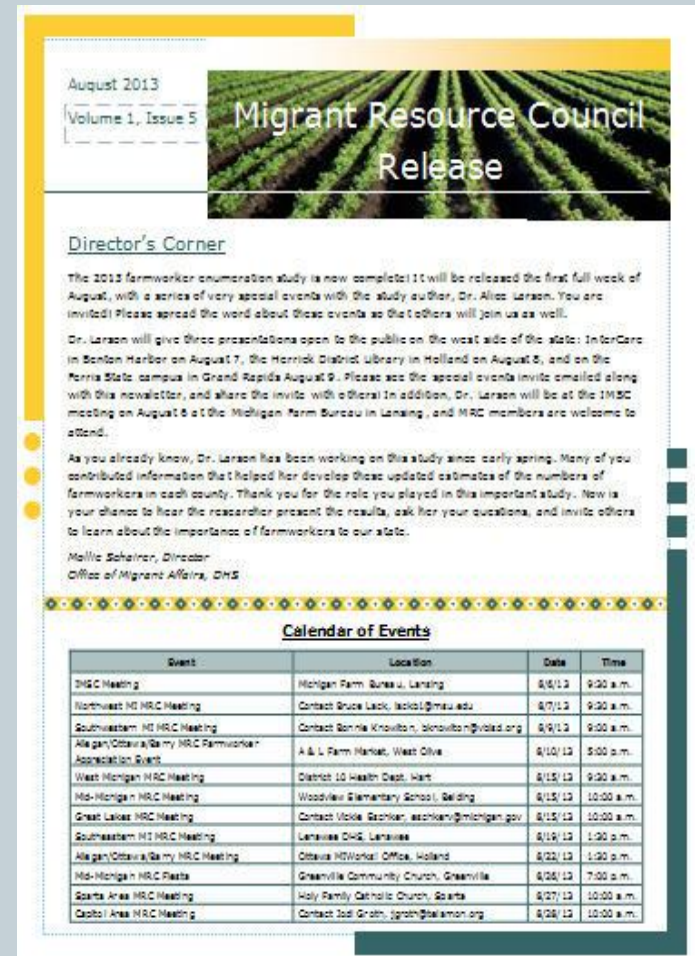


- Annual Activities (vary by Council)
 - Farmworker Appreciation Event
 - Farmworker Informational Meeting
 - Pre-Season / Post-Season Conference
 - Grower Meeting
 - Gift Bag Giveaway



Migrant Resource Council Newsletter

- New in 2013; *Migrant Resource Council Release*
- Increase communication between OMA, MRCs, and IMSC
- Features a Director's Corner, Calendar of MRC Meetings/Events, Feature Agency, Articles, and Contact Info
- Emailed monthly to MRCs and IMSCs



August 2013
Volume 1, Issue 5

Migrant Resource Council Release

Director's Corner

The 2013 farmworker enumeration study is now complete! It will be released the first full week of August, with a series of very special events with the study author, Dr. Alice Larson. You are invited! Please spread the word about these events so that others will join us as well.

Dr. Larson will give three presentations open to the public on the west side of the state: InterCare in Benton Harbor on August 7, the Herrick District library in Holland on August 8, and on the Ferris State campus in Grand Rapids August 9. Please see the special events invite emailed along with this newsletter, and share the invite with others! In addition, Dr. Larson will be at the IMSC meeting on August 8 at the Michigan Farm Bureau in Lansing, and MRC members are welcome to attend.

As you already know, Dr. Larson has been working on this study since early spring. Many of you contributed information that helped her develop these updated estimates of the numbers of farmworkers in each county. Thank you for the role you played in this important study. Now is your chance to hear the researcher present the results, ask her your questions, and invite others to learn about the importance of farmworkers to our state.

Mollie Scheiner, Director
Office of Migrant Affairs, DHS

Calendar of Events

Event	Location	Date	Time
IMSC Meeting	Michigan Farm Bureau, Lansing	8/6/13	9:00 a.m.
Northwest MI MRC Meeting	Contact Bruce Lick, lickb1@msu.edu	8/7/13	9:00 a.m.
Southwestern MI MRC Meeting	Contact Bonnie Knowlton, knowltonb@voiaid.org	8/9/13	9:00 a.m.
Allegheny/Ontario/Gerry MRC Farmworker Appreciation Event	A & L Farm Market, West Olive	8/10/13	9:00 a.m.
West Michigan MRC Meeting	District 10 Health Dept. Hart	8/15/13	9:00 a.m.
Mid-Michigan MRC Meeting	Woodview Elementary School, Belding	8/15/13	10:00 a.m.
Great Lakes MRC Meeting	Contact Nicole Sechler, sechler@mtmichigan.gov	8/15/13	10:00 a.m.
Southeastern MI MRC Meeting	Lansing DHS, Lansing	8/19/13	1:00 p.m.
Allegheny/Ontario/Gerry MRC Meeting	Ottawa MI Worker Office, Holland	8/22/13	1:00 p.m.
Mid-Michigan MRC Fiesta	Greenville Community Church, Greenville	8/26/13	7:00 p.m.
Spokane Area MRC Meeting	Holy Family Catholic Church, Spokane	8/27/13	10:00 a.m.
Capital Area MRC Meeting	Contact Josh Grotz, jgrotz@stalemon.org	8/28/13	10:00 a.m.

Migrant Resource Councils



Getting involved—Benefits for me

- Ensure that your program is part of referral network
- Receive email listserv updates on policy changes, news, and area events
- Stay informed re migrant camp openings/closings
- Connect with families through participation in events

Migrant Resource Councils



For more information, contact:

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Capital Area Migrant Resource Council



- Based in Lansing
- Supports farmworkers & their families in Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson & Livingston Counties
- Meets monthly March-October the 4th Wednesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Guest Speakers at Meetings
- Special events for farmworkers

Capital Area Migrant Resource Council



- Membership is free
- Members include agencies/organizations ranging:
 - Telamon Corp, Capitol Area Community Services, Community Mental Health, Ingham Co Health Dept, Capital Area Literacy Coalition, LCC, CCRESA, others
- Friends of the MRC



Capital Area Migrant Resource Council



July is Farmworker Appreciation Month!

- Assemble & deliver adult gift bags at migrant labor camps
- Assemble & deliver kids gift bags at Stockbridge Migrant Education Program
 - Distributed 200 adult bags and 120 kids bags in 2013
 - Items included pillow cases, non-perishable food items, backpacks, school supplies, health and dental items, sports equipment, toys, sunglasses, batteries, baseball caps, clothing, flash lights, water bottles, water, bandanas



Capital Area Migrant Resource Council



Farmworker Appreciation continued to the August meeting on August 28th

- Location: Country Mill, 4648 Otto Rd, Charlotte
- Gift bags distributed to families who work at the Country Mill farm



Capital Area Migrant Resource Council



For more information, contact:

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Capital Area Migrant Resource Council

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